

Remarks

Claims 1-14 are pending.

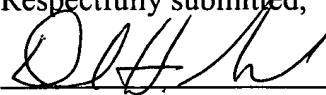
Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the Interview on June 8, 2005. During the Interview, Applicant and the Examiner agreed that the Stieg reference lacked the teaching of a “traction ratio being the arm of the torque divided by a radius of the wheel,” as required by pending independent claim 1 (and pending dependent claims 2-14). By contrast, it was agreed that Steig teaches a traction ratio based on belt tension. In view of this distinction, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-14 over Steig.

In an effort to advance the prosecution, Applicant has cancelled previous claims 15-16, and amended the Abstract to address the objection raised thereto in the last official action.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees due in connection with this filing Deposit Account 50-0310. A duplicate of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



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